

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

FEMA-1604-DR-MS

**PROPOSED RELOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR  
THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI, PASS CHRISTIAN, HARRISON COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI**

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina extensively damaged the entire Mississippi (MS) Gulf Coast and surrounding areas. Hurricane Katrina was the U.S. Mainland's largest natural disaster in history. Two of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi's (Diocese) elementary schools in Pass Christian, Harrison County, Mississippi were rendered unusable by the storm. The Diocese plans to rebuild in a new location outside of the floodplain and has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance 406 funding under the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The Diocese considered several alternatives, including rebuilding on the original site and rebuilding on alternative locations outside the floodplain. The project proposed by the Diocese for funding would to combine classrooms of the 2 elementary schools destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in a new elementary school at a site already owned by the Diocese and where on a portion of which Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is located. The funds that would have been used to rebuild the destroyed schools would be directed to partially fund the new school construction as a part of the new elementary school complex.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), attached, was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) to implement NEPA, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations (44 CFR § 10.9) to implement NEPA. This EA analyzes the proposed project to relocate and build a new elementary school in Pass Christian, Harrison County, Mississippi and assesses the proposed project's potential environmental impacts in order to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The EA documents the evaluation of the proposed project for potential impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, ground water, Waters of the United States, wetlands, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), safety, involving hazardous materials and waste, cultural resources, or result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. The results of this evaluation indicate that the funding and subsequent implementation of the proposed action not result in any significant adverse impacts and to the best of our knowledge does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x).

J. Randy Walker Date 2/16/07  
Infrastructure Section Chief